

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS

1. OFFICIAL GAZETTE PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 22 FINAL ACTS LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. ONLY ELEMENT MISSING IS DATE FOR ELECTIONS, WHICH SPECULATION PLACES FOR EARLY NOVEMBER. REFERRING TO GAZETTING OF DECREE ON REESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESIDENTIAL ACT RESTORING ARTICLES 11 AND 20 OF CONSTITUTION (1952) (FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND GUARANTEE PRIVACY OF CORRESPONDENCE). PM CARAMANLIS STATED THESE MEASURES, INCLUDING THE ABOLITION OF LAW 509 BANNING COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES, CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY. PM STRESSED GOG INTENDED TO CONTINUE STEADY COURSE FOR FULL RESTORATION OF POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY. HE ADDED "THE SPEEDY RECOURSE TO THE POLLS IS DICTATED NOT ONLY BY OUR DEMOCRATIC SENSITIVITY, OR BY THE OBLIGATION TO THE CONSISTENT WITH OUR FIRST DECLARATIONS. IT ABOVE ALL RESPONDS TO A NATIONAL COMMAND CONCERNING HANDLING OF CRUCIAL NATIONAL ISSUES."

2. CARAMANLIS NOTED THAT WITH PUBLICATION OF NEW LAWS ALL POLITICAL PARTIES CAN NOW OPERATE LEGALLY WITHIN FRAMEWORK  
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OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. HE ANTICIPATED EARLY LIFTING

OF MARTIAL LAW AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS DATE.

3. LEGALIZATION OF GREEK COMMUNIST PARTIES WITH THE REPEAL OF 1947 LAW 509 PLACES THEM ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES AFTER OVER 25 YEARS OF OPERATING IN THE SHADOWS. ELECTION PROSPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF KKE'S LEGITIMACY WILL BE SUBJECT SEPTEL.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT INTERIOR MINISTER STRATOS RESPONDING TO QUESTION SAID THAT ELECTORAL LAW DID NOT BAN THOSE WHO COLLABORATED WITH DICTATORSHIP FROM PARTICIPATING IN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. INQUIRY MAY HAVE BEEN MADE BECAUSE REUTERS REPORTED THAT EX-PRESIDENT GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS AFTER TEN MONTHS SILENCE PLANS PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 27 TO DISCUSS REASONS FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION OF APRIL 21, 1967 AND TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT OF PAPADOPOULOS ADHERENTS. PRESS ACCOUNT NOTED PROSPECTS FOR NEW MILITARY ADVENTURISM ARE REDUCED BY "CIVILIANIZATION" OF FORMER COUP LEADERS.

5. PRESS ALSO CARRIED STATEMENT BY MINISTER OF FINANCE AND EX-DEPUTY (CU) JOHN PESMAZOGLOU THAT DESPITE PRESS REPORTS OF ALLEGED INTENTIONS OF NEW POLITICAL FORCES, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE CONCERNING COLLABORATION OF NEW FORCES WITH EXISTING PARTIES. IN SEPARATE ITEM NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT MINISTERS PESMAZOGLOU AND MANGAKIS WOULD ANNOUNCE THEIR POSITION ON PARTY ALIGNMENT BY END OF WEEK.  
KUBISCH

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